

**(Washington, DC)** Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar) expressed sadness upon learning of the death of leading civil rights advocate Dr. Dorothy Height, who died today at the age of 98.

“With the passing of Dr. Dorothy Height we have lost a legend who dedicated her life to building up justice and tearing down inequality,” Hastings said. “My condolences go out to Dr. Height’s family and friends.

“At a time when civil rights leaders were mostly all men, Dr. Height was there as the matriarch of the movement, building the strategy that created a more just and free world for us all,” Hastings further noted.

“From the Presidential Medal of Freedom she received in 1994 from President Bill Clinton to the Congressional Gold Medal President George W. Bush presented her on her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday in 2004, the importance of Dr. Height’s civil rights work was lost on no one.

“As National President of the National Council of Negro Women and Director of the Center for Racial Justice of the national YWCA, millions were touched by Dr. Height’s vision of justice and passion for improving the human condition. May her legacy of championing social causes and affecting needed change, continue to inspire young women and men to stand up for what is right.”

Dr. Height served as president of the National Council of Negro Women from 1957 until 1997 and led the organization during the height of the civil rights movement in the 1960’s. With the YWCA, she was instrumental in helping with desegregation within the organization.

*Congressman Alcee L. Hastings is Vice Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, a senior member of the House Rules Committee, and Co-Chairman of the U.S.*

*Helsinki Commission.*

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